

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 14603 261701Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 044003

O R 261120Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7439
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL ASMARA

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EXDIS

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ET, SU, US
SUBJECT: KAGNEW 4

REF: KHARTOUM 2743

1. TEXT REQUESTED IN PARA 4 OF REFTEL IS NOVEMBER 19 AP
DISPATCH WHICH NO BEIRUT PAPER PICKED UP. AP HAS PROVIDED
FULL TEXT, OF WHICH RELEVANT EXTRACTS FOLLOW.

2. QUOTE SUDAN IS MEDIATING WITH ERITRAN REBELS AT U.S.
REQUEST TO FREE FOUR AMERICAN TECHNICIANS CAPTURED BY THE
INSURGENTS IN ETHIOPIA'S RED SEA PROVINCE, THE REBELS SAID
WEDNESDAY. "THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN UNDER WAY
FOR SOME TIME IN KHARTOUM," THE SUDANESE CAPITAL, A
SPOKESMAN FOR THE ELF SAID IN BEIRUT.... THE SPOKESMAN
SAID ALL FOUR AMERICANS WERE IN "PERFECT PHYSICAL
CONDITION" IN A MOUNTAIN HIDOUT IN NORTHERN ERITREA
"THEY ARE WELL TREATED AND WELL FED AND HAVE EVEN
DEVELOPED PERSONNAL FRIENDSHIPS WITH THEIR GUARDS. THEY
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ARE NOT LOCKED UP, BUT MOVE ABOUT FREELY WITHIN THE CAMP

PREMISES DURING THE DAY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID. "AT NIGHT, THEY SLEEP IN FOUR SEPARATE BEDS WITH ONE REBEL GUARDING THEIR HUT". ASKED WHEN THE U.S. G. ASKED SUDAN TO MEDIATE AND WHETHER THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD REACHED A CONCLUSIVE STAGE, THE FRONT'S BEIRUT SPOKESMAN, MUHAMMAD 'ALI, SAID, I CAN ONLY TELL YOU THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS IN KHARTOUM UNDER SUDANESE PRESIDENT JA'FAR NUMAYRI'S AUSPICES. HE HAS ORDERED SUDANESE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ELF ON TERMS FOR THE RELEASE OF THE FOUR AMERICAN CAPTIVES". HE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON A REPORT THAT THE FRONT IS DEMANDING A TEN MILLION DOLLAR RANSOM. " I AM NOT AUTHORIZED TO SAY WHETHER ANY NEW DEMANDS HAVE BEEN MADE IN ADDITION TO THOSE ANNOUNCED BY SECRETARY GENERAL 'UTHMAN SABBH IN SEPTEMBER," ALI SAID..... SABBH COULD NOT BE REACHED FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE KHARTOUM NEGOTIATIONS OR THE DEMANDS. HE IS ON AN ARAB TOUR SEEKING FINANCIAL AND MILITARY AID AND WAS LAST REPORTED IN THE PERSIAN GULF STATE OF BAHRAIN. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT ABOVE WAS RELEASED BY ELF SPOKESMAN TO AP LOCAL STAFFER FARUQ NASSAR, A GOOD PERSONAL FRIEND OF 'UTHMAN SABBH, ON NOVEMBER 19.
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

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